

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (amended): ~~The exhaust aftertreatment device according to claim 1~~ An exhaust aftertreatment device comprising:

a housing extending axially along an axis and having an upstream inlet for receiving said exhaust, and a downstream outlet for discharging said exhaust;

5 an aftertreatment element in said housing for treating said exhaust;

a diffuser in said housing de-focusing centralized velocity force flow against said aftertreatment element from said inlet,

10 wherein said diffuser comprises a central axially extending cylindrical tube and a plurality of vanes extending radially outwardly from said tube and curved to impart a non-axial flow direction component, wherein a first portion of said exhaust from said inlet flows axially within said tube, and a second portion of said exhaust from said inlet flows along said vanes and is directed by the curving of said vanes along a non-axial flow component direction.

Claim 15 (original): The exhaust aftertreatment device according to claim 14 wherein said second portion of said exhaust is an annulus concentrically surrounding said first portion of said exhaust.

Claim 16 (original): The exhaust aftertreatment device according to claim 15 wherein said first portion of said exhaust flows from said inlet axially through said tube to said aftertreatment element.

Claim 17 (original): The exhaust aftertreatment device according to claim 15 wherein said tube is perforated.

Claims 18-34 (canceled)

5 Claim 35 (new): An exhaust aftertreatment device comprising a housing extending axially along an axis and having an upstream inlet for receiving said exhaust, and a downstream outlet for discharging said exhaust, an aftertreatment element in said housing for treating said exhaust, said housing having a chamber extending axially between said inlet and said aftertreatment element, a diffuser in said housing comprising a perforated plate extending laterally across said chamber and having a first central area and a second surrounding area, said plate being perforated at both of said first and second areas, said second area having larger perforated holes than said first area.

5 Claim 36 (new): An exhaust aftertreatment device comprising a housing extending axially along an axis and having an upstream inlet for receiving said exhaust, and a downstream outlet for discharging said exhaust, an aftertreatment element in said housing for treating said exhaust, said housing having a housing wall defining a chamber extending axially between said inlet and said aftertreatment element, a diffuser in said chamber and spaced laterally inwardly from said housing wall, said diffuser extending from said inlet toward said aftertreatment element, a support flange in said chamber and axially spaced from said inlet and axially spaced from said aftertreatment element and extending laterally inwardly from said housing wall to said diffuser to support the latter, wherein said diffuser extends from
10 said inlet to an inner diffuser end axially spaced from said aftertreatment element and laterally spaced inwardly from said housing wall, wherein said support flange extends laterally inwardly from said housing wall to said inner diffuser end to support the latter.